

a practical joke, takes his car and drives it into somebody else's car. You know how kids do that at football games or whether he has been drinking or not, so that he intentionally does damage of more than \$1000, whether it is a rock through a window, whether it is driving his car into somebody else's car, or whatever he might do, suddenly we have got a 20 year felony on our hands, not a 5 year felony as current law provides. Now the reason we did not increase the penalties on our bill on damages of over \$300 is we felt they were significant enough. We felt a 5 year penalty is plenty enough to penalize that kind of conduct, and we think changing it to a 20 year felony and then applying it to all criminal mischief offenses throughout the state, whether they deal with synagogues or cemeteries or churches or anything else, any property damage, any personal damage, whatever may result, is going far, far beyond what we want to do. Now we think it is a legitimate role of the legislative process to make statements of this sort when affected people come in and ask us to do it and when they have a reasonable grounds for it and when they can show that it has helped in other states. I think Senator Higgins is absolutely right on that score. And let me in closing read to you the names and the institutions represented by the people that came and testified in favor of this bill, because most of you here didn't have the benefit of that hearing. The first witness....

PRESIDENT: One minute, Senator.

SENATOR HOAGLAND: All right, thank you, Mr. President. The first witness after the introducer was Alan Katchan, the Executive Director of the Plains Regional Anti-defamation League Office, headquartered here in Omaha; then Father Wortman of the Blessed Sacrament Church in Omaha; Reverend John Swearington of the Presbyterian Church in Fremont; Jim Cunningham of the Nebraska Catholic Conference; Magda Fried, a survivor of a World War II concentration camp in Nazi Germany and Poland; Rabbi Bisman from Lincoln; Buddy Hogan representing the NAACP in Omaha; Herb Schimek of the NSEA; Margaret Corkle of the Millard Public Schools; and Gerald Rus of the Nebraska Association of Social Workers. Now these people came before the committee and said, this is a serious problem, we are supporting this bill, we need this extra protection for our religious institutions, for our schools in this state and we ask you to pass this bill to increase the penalties and to focus attention on this subject. Now it seems to me, Mr. President, that is a legitimate request. It is an entirely legitimate request, and I ask you to reject the committee amendment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Landis.